



## Special Issues

Like many sectors of the city, Cluster 1 has unique features and issues that do not fit neatly within the planning categories of this report. These concerns and issues are summarized in this section of the report and will also be addressed as part of the Community Visioning section. The chief "special issues" in Cluster 1 are the City Airport and the Michigan State Fair grounds. These represent aspects of the Cluster that have a significant impact on the Cluster and have considerable implications which extend beyond Cluster boundaries. For these reasons it would be difficult to adequately address these issues within the transportation and commercial sections of this report. The Renaissance and Empowerment Zones also represent unique elements within the Cluster, however, for purposes of this report they are addressed as part of the section on Job Centers. Following is a brief summary of Cluster 1's special concerns and issues.

### City Airport

The Detroit City Airport is clearly a Cluster feature whose impact extends beyond the boundaries of the Cluster. It is also a special concern because of the significant impact on Cluster residents, particularly those living in close proximity to the Airport. The City Airport is considered to be a job center for the Cluster and has economic development implications for Detroit as a whole. In this regard City Airport is an asset to both the Cluster and the City.

Conversely, through focus groups and surveys several issues have surfaced with respect to City Airport. Perhaps the biggest concern of Cluster residents has to do with the residential deterioration associated with the Airport expansion. The City's purchase of selected properties around the Airport coupled with the expectation on the part of many that the area is or will very soon no longer be a desirable residential community, has led to significant deterioration and abandonment. The maps provided in the housing section of this report illustrate the severity of the deterioration of the housing structures in the area.

Other Airport concerns of importance to Cluster residents are basic "quality of life" issues. Complaints over Airport related noise and air pollution are dominant quality of life issues. The noise associated with local air traffic is particularly problematic for youth in schools and the teachers trying to teach them. Public safety and the Safety Zone, of course, are also quality of life issues which affect Cluster residents, especially when the debate around City Airport includes discussions on Airport expansion. While many Cluster residents view the Airport primarily as an asset despite these issues, the concern over public safety has not abated.

Finally, the perceived lack of adequate communication from City government around the Airport and proposed plans for expansion is another concern shared by a number of Cluster residents. Community residents, again particularly those living in close proximity to the Airport, do not feel that information is shared with them by the City and that rumors and uncertainty contribute to the decay in the area.

## Michigan State Fair Grounds

Technically speaking, the Michigan State Fair grounds would normally fall within the commercial planning area for purposes of this report. However, the unique and seasonal nature of the Fair grounds sets it apart from other commercial areas in the Cluster. Presently, there do not appear to be any major issues concerning the Michigan State Fair grounds. Cluster residents have expressed an interest, though, in utilizing the Fair grounds for other community activities during the remaining 50 weeks when the Fair is not operating. Also, as part of the Community Visioning process, Cluster residents discussed potential long and short-term uses for the site based on the scenario that the Fair continues to be held at the site and the scenario that it closes or relocates.